

Dear Parish Family-

Last Sunday we had the Blessing of the Animals on the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. We had a barking good blessing! We mostly had dogs, all kinds, mixed breed, Labs, Dutchshuds, chow-chows, Pekingese, Golden Retrievers, poodles, German Shepherds, Beagles, Golden Doodles, Labradoodles, etc, many and varied breeds. We had one cat and one magnificent White Cockatoo bird! The beagles kept us all alert with their yodeling.

Bishop David O'Connell continues to encourage the faithful to pray the Rosary especially during the pandemic.

Bishop O'Connell has announced the Diocese of Trenton will participate in the National Novena for the United States of America. The Novena is being promoted by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops as a prayerful response to the turmoil in our country at multiple levels (economic, social, religious, community etc) and the uncertainty caused by the pandemic. Our parish will be participating in the National Novena and it will be Live Streamed each day before Mass from October 26-Nov. 3. More information is available on the USCCB and Diocese of Trenton Websites as well as the Diocesan Communication 'The Monitor'.

The Bishops of New Jersey have released a joint statement on the Reproductive Freedom Act which Governor Murphy intends to sign into law promoting Abortion. The statement is the following:

The Catholic Church believes and teaches that all human life is sacred from conception to natural death. For that reason, we, the Bishops of each of the dioceses in New Jersey, join in voicing the strongest possible opposition to the "Reproductive Freedom Act." Without minimizing other serious threats to human life and dignity evident in contemporary American society, the Catholic Church consistently maintains that "the threat of abortion remains our preeminent priority because it directly attacks life itself, because it takes place within the sanctuary of the family, and because of the number of lives destroyed." (USCCB, Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship, "Introductory Letter," 2020).

*When informed of the text of the USCCB document early in 2020, **Pope Francis observed that the right to life of the unborn "is the most fundamental right. This is not first a religious issue; it is a human rights issue."** (Pope Francis to American Catholic Bishops, USCCB Region IX, January 16, 2020)."*

As the Catholic Bishops of New Jersey, we urge all Catholics and people of good will to reject this proposed legislative initiative in our state and to contact your State legislators to vigorously express opposition to its passage.

Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R. Archbishop, Archdiocese of Newark

Most Reverend David M. O'Connell, C.M. Bishop, Diocese of Trenton

Most Reverend Dennis J. Sullivan Bishop, Diocese of Camden

Most Reverend Kevin J. Sweeney Bishop, Diocese of Paterson

Most Reverend James F. Checchio Bishop, Diocese of Metuchen

Most Reverend Kurt Burnette Bishop, Eparchy of Passaic

Most Reverend Yousif Habash Bishop of Syriac Catholic Diocese

Finally I bring to your attention the Beatification of two new Blessed. The one is young gamer and computer programmer who died in 2006, at the age of 15, Carlo Acutis. He will be beatified (the step before being

declared a Saint) this Saturday Oct. 10 in Assisi where his relics repose. You can read about him here:

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/who-was-carlo-acutis-a-cna-explainer-19684>

The Second is Fr. Michael McGivney, a priest of the Archdiocese of Hartford who found the Knights of Columbus. He will be beatified on Oct. 31 in Hartford, Ct. Bishop David M. O'Connell will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving at the Co-Cathedral of St. Robert on November 14 which due Corona Virus is by invitation only and limited to members of the Knight of Columbus. The Mass will be Live Streamed and Bishop O'Connell will donate, bless and enshrine a large painting of Blessed Fr. Michael McGivney in the Co-Cathedral. You can learn more about Blessed Fr. McGivney and the Beatification at: <https://www.kofc.org/en/events/father-mcgivney-beatification/index.html>

Every Tuesday in October at 3pm in the Church I will be offering a Spirituality series entitled "Encounters with Christian Mystics." This is a live presentation, Live Streamed and archived. This Tuesday I will offer an encounter with the Spanish Mystics (Thursday is the Feast of the Spanish Mystic St. Teresa of Avila) and the French Victorine Mystics.

As the Covid-19 Pandemic continues to impact every aspect of life we are all learning to adjust and adapt to what is going to be a long haul in this health crisis. Stay safe, keep a safe distance, wear your mask, sanitize, wash your hands frequently and avoid touching your face.

Many and continued thanks to all of you for your continued good financial stewardship of the parish, more critical now than ever. Many of our Parishes have been deeply impacted financially so I am grateful for your continued support!

Peace and Good – Fr. Bambrick